

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given this application.

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 20-40 are now pending in this application, where Claims 20, 21, 24, 31 and 34 are independent claims. Claims 24, 31, and 34 have been amended, as will be discussed below.

At pages 3-11, the Office Action rejects Claims 20-26, 29, 31-36, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Noneman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,656). At pages 11-13, the Office Action rejects Claims 27, 28, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noneman et al. in view of Koenck et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2007/0001007). Finally, at pages 13-15, the Office Action rejects Claims 30 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noneman et al. in view of Moore et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,251,865). These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 20 and 21 both recite, “maintaining the connection on the packet radio service during a passive period, during which packets are not transferred.” As noted, e.g., at page 5, lines 4-9 (as well as many other locations within the present application), it is made clear that a passive period is defined to be a period when the sending station is *silent*; that is, it does not transmit. In contrast, as shown, e.g., in Fig. 4 of Noneman et al., when a station in Noneman et al. runs out of data, it transmits “idle frames” to maintain the connection.

The transmission in Noneman et al. during idle periods is discussed further at col.

2, lines 21-26:

When no packet data is available the data read is reduced to an idle rate to free most of the system capacity used for communicating the packet transmissions. The packet data service connection is thus maintained and the idle rate transmission of idle packets allows the receiving end of the channel to stay synchronized with the transmitter.

Col. 2, lines 21-26. In other words, in Noneman et al., packet transmission does *not* cease during an idle period. Packets (“idle packets” or “idle frames”) are transmitted, and these have some content; the data rate (“idle rate”) is merely lower than the usual packet data rate.

For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 20 and 21 (and 22 and 23, which depend from these claims) are not anticipated by Noneman et al.

Claims 24, 31, and 34 have been amended to clarify that, during a passive period, not just data packets, but rather, packets are not transmitted (i.e., the word “data” has been deleted from each claim). In view of these amendments, the above arguments are also applicable to Claims 24, 31, and 34 and to their dependent claims (25-30, 32, 33, and 35-40), and so these claims, too, are allowable over Noneman et al.

It is further noted that Applicants are unable to locate in either Koenck et al. or in Moore et al. teachings or suggestions that would remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Noneman et al.

Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 20-40 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants may not have presented all possible arguments or have refuted the characterizations of either the claims or the prior art as found in the Office Action. However, the lack of such arguments or refutations is not intended to act as a waiver of such arguments or as concurrence with such characterizations.

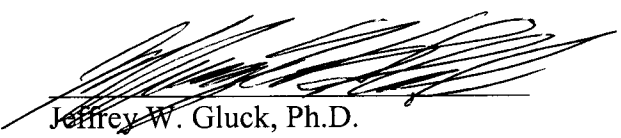
Conclusion

Applicants believe that the above amendments and remarks address all of the grounds for objection and rejection and place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply and reconsideration of this application.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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